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**SIXTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

✠ JAMAICA PLAIN ✠

**FRIENDLY SOCIETY.**

**1890.**









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JAMAICA PLAIN:  
PRESS OF THE WEST ROXBURY NEWS.  
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The work of the Jamaica Plain Friendly Society is so well known in this community, that a formal introduction to its Sixteenth Annual Report is perhaps unnecessary. Still, some new friends may be interested in a few words of history.

The present society, growing out of an earlier one, was formed in 1874, under the name of The Jamaica Plain Employment and Temporary Relief Society. Its aim is to help the poor to help themselves, finding work, if possible, for those able to do it, and giving direct relief only in illness or circumstances of special need. As the work goes on, all connected with it are convinced of the importance of forming friendly relations with the poor, and realize that only with this higher object in view can material aid be wisely given. In order to emphasize this side of the work, the name of the society was changed, in 1884, to The Jamaica Plain Friendly Society.

Our society is older than the Associated Charities of Boston, and independent of that organization. We send regular reports, however to its central office, and, receiving much useful information from its records, we gladly contribute annually to the expenses of this valuable registration. We are in sympathy with modern thought in regard to



charitable work, the difference between our methods and those of the Associated Charities being due, largely, to the fact that, in our outlying portion of the city, we are trying to solve problems somewhat different from those encountered in more crowded districts.

The Friendly Society is unsectarian, receiving financial aid and willing workers from all the churches, and caring for the poor without regard to race or religion. An applicant for aid is sometimes given by us into the care of a church. In other cases we work with the church, always, under these circumstances, realizing the value of co-operation.

The society is not endowed, and depends for support upon annual subscriptions, which are collected by its solicitors.

During the season of 1889-90, twenty-one new families have been visited. Sixteen of these families are Protestant and five Roman Catholic. They are of various nationalities, no one being prominent. The whole number of families visited (fifty-four) is smaller than last year, but the amount of aid given is greater, because of the unusual prevalence of sickness among the poor. In some cases special orders for nourishing food were continued for many weeks by the physician's advice.

One case, where varied help and work have been needed, was that of a worthy Swedish woman, whose husband became suddenly insane last autumn. He had been a temperate man, providing well for his family, so that it was a great change to his wife to find herself left alone with two little children to support. She was ill for a time after her husband was taken away, and could earn nothing. At this time she was helped by a sum of money kindly raised for her by her husband's fellow-workmen. The members of her Swedish church were also very generous, but could not afford to do much. After some weeks, the needs of this



family were reported to our society, and a visitor was sent immediately. The woman was not strong enough to do hard work, so our visitor gave an order for sewing, and supplied food and fuel when they were needed. The visitor also obtained from friends money to assist in paying the rent. In the spring the poor woman became ill, and spent many weeks at the City Hospital and St. Luke's Home for Convalescents. The visitor placed the little girls in the Children's Mission, where they were well cared for during their mother's absence. As the woman did not become strong enough to work, her visitor again appealed to kind friends for money. The response was so generous that mother and children were sent to a pleasant country town for three months. This family is still in our care, and may require much oversight for some time to come, owing to the woman's helpless condition, but we give her story as an example showing the scope of our visitors' work. They must be ready not only to visit a poor family and give orders from our society, but also to appeal to private charity and institutions, and to spend time, thought, energy, and perseverance, in many ways.

The great value of co-operation we appreciate more fully each year. The family just cited must have suffered if our society had not been able to work with hospitals, homes, and private individuals. We also are in communication with other societies; for instance, the German Aid Society and the Episcopal City Mission. The greatest gain, however, comes to us from co-operation in our own vicinity, with the churches, the physician of the Jamaica Plain Dispensary, the agent of the Overseers of the Poor, and the police.

The unpleasant subject of begging must be mentioned. This year a number of cases of begging were reported to us. Those within our limits we investigated. When an address in the city, or some town, was given, it was reported to the proper authorities, from whom we received answers. The

result is that not one beggar of them all proved worthy. This experience, often repeated, strengthens us in the belief that a beggar in the street, or from door to door, is almost certain to be undeserving. There is, however, a chance of some worthy person being driven to this extremity, and our society is ready to investigate all claims, and to aid if necessary. Indiscriminate giving, especially of money, tends only to demoralize those who receive it. One family, several members of which are able to work, has been preying upon kind-hearted persons in this vicinity for years. Their devices are such as to deceive the most experienced, and this is not the only family known to us, where strong men often live in idleness upon money which might have been well spent in caring for the aged or the sick. The Rev. S. H. Gurteen, a charitable worker of great wisdom, writes as follows: "Let the head hold in check the heart—refuse all street charity, all relief to that demoralized multitude who spend their lives in going, with artfully devised tales of woe, from house to house, and from society to society. School yourselves into more rational methods, and let the time come to an end when the accomplished cheat is filled with good things, while the deserving poor are sent empty away."

Begging and intemperance make much of the dark side of the work of our society, but it has too its bright side, which must not be forgotten, though the good, which we believe is often done, cannot be measured and given in figures. An experienced worker in this field says, "One thing we must always keep in mind—let our endeavor be a large one, but our expectation of success be very moderate. While we can certainly lessen the burden of suffering and sin, we cannot hope at once to abolish it. Human nature is less pliable than we sometimes imagine, and, if a few cheap efforts could reform the world it would have been done long ago. We must expect many discouragements, many failures, and be ready to give our bravest effort, content if in

a few instances it ransoms our brother to a higher manhood.\*

Our society has had one hundred and seventeen applicants this year. Four hundred and twenty-four visits have been made to fifty-four families. One hundred and eighteen garments, and fifty pairs of boots and rubbers, were given away.

Sewing was given to twenty-four women, by whom eleven hundred and sixteen articles were made, for the City Hospital, the New England Hospital, the Children's Mission, private orders, and the use of our own society. A stock of plain garments is always for sale at our room.

Our thanks are again due to friends who have sent us clothing; to the Gas Company for its gift of coke, and to Mr. Vogel for a box of boots and shoes.

Our room at Curtis Hall is open from ten until one every week day (Saturdays and holidays excepted), from the first Monday in October to the first Monday in May. Our agent may always be found there during those hours, and from eleven to twelve one of the Case Committee is also present. All persons wishing information in regard to the work of the society are invited to visit our room.

ELLEN C. MORSE,  
MARY FAULKNER,  
S. J. FRENCH,  
FANNIE M. HOPKINS.

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\*Proceedings of the National Conference of Charities and Correction. 1889. Page 33. Paper by Mrs. Glendower Evans.



## TREASURER'S REPORT.

OCTOBER 5, 1889, TO OCTOBER 8, 1890.

## RECEIPTS.

Balance from last year,	.	.	.	.	.	\$489.93
Subscriptions,	.	.	.	.	.	906.14
Sales,	.	.	.	.	.	142.55
Returned by Agent,	.	.	.	.	.	13.33
From loan,	.	.	.	.	.	3.00
						<hr/> \$1554.95

## EXPENDITURES.

Agent's salary,	.	.	.	.	.	\$290.00
Paid for work,	.	.	.	.	.	271.30
“ “ materials,	.	.	.	.	.	172.98
“ “ provisions and milk,	.	.	.	.	.	227.82
“ “ boots and shoes,	.	.	.	.	.	69.81
“ “ printing,	.	.	.	.	.	28.25
“ “ fuel,	.	.	.	.	.	77.38
“ “ postage and stationery,	.	.	.	.	.	6.92
Paid Associated Charities for registration,	.	.	.	.	.	100.00
Loaned,	.	.	.	.	.	3.00
Balance on hand,	.	.	.	.	.	307.49
						<hr/> \$1554.95

Respectfully submitted,

E. W. CLARK, *Treasurer.*

## AUDITOR'S REPORT.

I hereby certify that I have examined the accounts of E. W. Clark, Esq., Treasurer of The Jamaica Plain Friendly Society, from October 5, 1889, to October 8, 1890, and that the same are correctly cast and the payments therein are properly vouched, and that the Treasurer charges himself as of the latter date, with a balance of three hundred and seven dollars and forty-nine cents (\$307.49).

CHARLES P. BOWDITCH, *Auditor.*

BOSTON, October 16, 1890.

OFFICERS OF THE JAMAICA PLAIN FRIENDLY SOCIETY FOR  
1890-91.

President: Rev. S. U. Shearman.

Vice-Presidents: Mr. Charles P. Bowditch, Mr. Charles B. Cumings, Mrs. D. S. Greenough, Rev. William Bradley, Rev. John E. Tuttle, Dr. Arthur P. Perry.

Secretary: Miss Caroline E. Chickering.

Treasurer: Mr. E. W. Clark.

Assistant Treasurer: Miss Mary Faulkner.

Executive Committee: Dr. George Faulkner, Chairman; Dr. E. P. Gerry, Rev. Charles F. Dole, Mrs. R. W. Wood, Mrs. H. D. Morse, Mrs. A. D. Weld.

## CASE COMMITTEE.

Miss Ellen C. Morse, Chairman; Prince Street.

Miss Mary Faulkner, Secretary; Greenough Avenue.

Mrs. Austin B. French, Seaverns Avenue.

Mrs. G. J. Hopkins, Park Place.

Miss Eleanor S. Parker, Washington Street.

## VISITORS.

Miss Anna J. Bradley, Chestnut Avenue.

Mrs. H. R. Brigham, Myrtle Street.

Mrs. E. P. Butler, A Street, near Boylston Street.

Miss C. E. Chickering, Centre Street, corner Pond Street.

Miss Davis, at Dr. Wood's, Revere Street.

Miss Mary Faulkner, Greenough Avenue.

Miss Kate Folsom, Lakeville Place.

Mrs. Austin B. French, Seaverns Avenue.

Mrs. G. J. Hopkins, Park Place.

Miss E. E. Ingalls, Spring Park Avenue.

Mrs. James Lee, Storey Place.

Mrs. James A. Low, Forest Hill Street.

Miss Ellen C. Morse, Prince Street.

Mrs. Walter Moulton, Green Street.

Miss Eleanor S. Parker, Washington Street.

Mrs. Alfred Stebbins, Walk Hill Street.

Mrs. Henry R. Stedman, Bourne Street.  
 Mrs. Samuel G. Thaxter, Sigourney Street.  
 Mrs. A. D. Weld, Forest Hill Street.  
 Miss K. R. Wendell, Greenough Avenue.

#### ASSOCIATE VISITORS.

Rev. William Bradley, Chestnut Avenue.  
 Dr. H. W. Broughton, Gordon Street.  
 Mr. E. W. Clark, Centre Street.  
 Mr. Charles B. Cumings, Greenough Avenue.  
 Rev. Charles F. Dole, Roanoke Avenue.  
 Dr. H. C. Ernst, Greenough Avenue.  
 Dr. George Faulkner, Greenough Avenue.  
 Mr. George W. Fowle, Chestnut Square.  
 Dr. E. P. Gerry, Everett Street.  
 Mr. Patrick McMorrow, Forest Hill Street.  
 Dr. A. P. Perry, Gordon Street.  
 Rev. S. U. Shearman, Parley Vale.

#### SOLICITORS.

District No. 1.	Miss Charlotte Bowditch, Pond Street.
“ “ 2.	Miss Ellen C. Morse, Prince Street.
“ “ 3.	Mrs. Henry Forster, Eliot Street.
“ “ 4.	Miss Beaumont, Alveston Street.
“ “ 5.	Mrs. S. U. Shearman, Parley Vale.
“ “ 6.	Mrs. Charles F. Ogilby, Myrtle Street.
“ “ 7.	Mrs. H. R. W. Browne, South Street.
“ “ 8.	Mrs. Alfred Stebbins, Walk Hill Street.
“ “ 9.	Miss Helen Weld, Forest Hill Street.
“ “ 10.	Miss Frances K. Harris, Greenwood Avenue.
“ “ 11.	Miss Edith Hodgman, Warren Square.
“ “ 12.	Miss Amy Wilson, Lamartine Street.
“ “ 13.	Miss Marion Q. Winslow, Perkins Street.
“ “ 14.	Miss L. D. W. Pingree, Revere Street.
“ “ 15.	Miss Annie Stedman, Elm Street.
“ “ 16.	Mrs. Walter Moulton, Green Street.
“ “ 17.	Miss Isabel Butler, Centre Street.
“ “ 18.	Miss Fannie E. Hill, St. John Street.
“ “ 19.	Miss Gertrude B. Davis, Robeson Street.
“ “ 20.	Mrs. Ellis Peterson, Chestnut Avenue.
“ “ 21.	Miss Coe, Amory Street.
“ “ 22.	Miss May E. Tucker, Sedgwick Street.





